

In the Claims

The current listing of claims set forth below replaces all prior versions and listings of claims.

1. (currently amended) An anomalous heat producing apparatus comprising:

a reaction vessel;

a reactant material either in liquid form, dissolved in a liquid or mixed with a liquid, the reactant material selected from the group consisting of hydrogen (H₂), hydrogen oxide (H₂O), deuterium (D₂), deuterium oxide (D₂O), hydrogen deuterium oxide (HDO), or mixtures thereof; linear alkanes, metallic hydrides, paraffins and silicones wherein at least one of the hydrogen atoms is isotopic hydrogen, said reactant material contained in said reaction vessel;

~~an energy source to excite said reactant material;~~

a catalytic material, ~~metal or alloy substrate~~, at least part of which is selected from the group consisting of copper (Cu), nickel (Ni), titanium (Ti), palladium (Pd), or silver (Ag), said catalytic material, metal or alloy also contained in said reaction vessel and for providing a matrix configuration to position atoms of the reactant material in a manner to optimize combination;

an energy source for generating cavitation bubbles within the reactant material and collapsing the bubbles at the catalytic material, collapse of the bubbles at the catalytic material implanting the reactant material within the catalytic material, implantation of the catalytic material generating heat;

and means for conducting away heat from said reaction vessel.

2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the energy source is selected from sonic, mechanical, electrical, optical, magnetic or a combination thereof.

3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the energy source is focused sonic waves.

4. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein ~~the metal or metal alloy catalytic material~~ comprises palladium.

5. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the reactant material is selected from deuterium oxide, deuterium or mixtures thereof.

6. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the apparatus further includes metal or metal alloy shielding to collect produced alpha-particles.

7. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim I wherein the apparatus further includes means to collect any helium gas produced.

8. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the energy source is a sonic wave generator.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the reactant material comprises deuterium and the catalytic materials, ~~metal or alloy substrate~~ comprises palladium present in at least 99 percent by weight.

10. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the palladium is present as a finely divided powder, a fine mesh screen, a thin band of palladium from 1 to 10 microns in thickness, a palladium foil to 40 microns in thickness, or a palladium tipped thermo-electric device.

11. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the reactant material is in a liquid form and further wherein the energy source is focused sonic waves of sufficient energy to cause the cavitation bubbles to form in the liquid reactant material.

12. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the reactant material comprises deuterium and the catalytic materials, metal or alloy substrate comprises palladium present in at least 99 percent by weight.

13. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the ~~metal or metal alloy~~ catalytic material comprises palladium.

14. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the reactant material is selected from deuterium oxide, deuterium or mixtures thereof.

15. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the catalytic material is palladium present as a divided powder where the particle size exceeds the cavitation bubble size.

16. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the means for conducting heat away from said reaction vessel includes a circulation system and a heat exchanger positioned exterior of said reaction vessel, said circulation system for circulating the reactant material between said reaction vessel and said heat exchanger.

17. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 further including means to separate any helium or helium isotopes formed in said reaction vessel from combination of the reactant material within said reaction vessel.

18. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the means for conducting heat away from said reaction vessel includes bimetallic thermo-electric means for converting heat of combination within said reaction vessel into electrical energy.

19. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the reactant material is in a liquid form and further wherein the energy source is focused sonic waves of sufficient energy to cause the cavitation bubbles to form in the liquid reactant material.

20. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the reactant material comprises deuterium and the catalytic materials, metal or alloy substrate comprises palladium present in at least 99 percent by weight.

21. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the metal or metal alloy comprises palladium.

22. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the reactant material is selected from deuterium oxide, deuterium or mixtures thereof.

23. (withdrawn) A method of obtaining controlled combination of isotopic hydrogen, which method comprises:

- (a) forming a metal or metal alloy matrix comprising palladium into a matrix structure;
- (b) contacting the metal matrix with one or more reactant compounds which comprise isotopic hydrogen, such that the isotopic hydrogen atoms are within the range where nuclear repulsion ordinarily occurs for said isotopic hydrogen atoms;
- (c) subjecting the matrix and reactant charge to nuclear repulsion compounds with energy sufficient to excite the reactant compounds; and
- (d) producing controlled combination thereby producing excess heat, gamma rays, and helium or a helium isotope.

24. (withdrawn) The method of claim 23 wherein the metal or metal alloy comprises palladium in 99.9 percent by weight or greater, the reactant compound comprises deuterium, and the energy source is acoustic and utilizes cavitation micro-bubble technology to produce the focused energy to obtain controlled combination.

25. (previously presented) An apparatus for producing heat, said apparatus comprising:
a reaction vessel comprising an inlet and an outlet and opposed walls;
a bubble collapsing metal surface in between said opposed walls, said metal surface capable of absorbing a hydrogen isotope;
means for producing transient asymmetric high energy bubbles directed against said metal surface in a liquid medium, when said liquid medium is present in said reaction vessel;
means for heat transfer from heat produced in said reaction vessel to a heat receiving means.

26. (previously presented) A apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said bubbles producing means is a sonicator capable of producing sound waves at at least about 10KHz to provide energy at said metal surface of at least about 1 W/cm².

27. (previously presented) A apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said sonicator comprises a liquid reservoir at an elevated pressure, said reservoir sharing a wall with said reaction vessel, said wall opposite said metal surface.

28. (previously presented) A apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said metal surface is a metal of Groups IV to VIII of the Periodic Chart.

29. (previously presented) A apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said heat transfer means comprises a circulation system and a heat exchanger positioned exterior to said reaction vessel.

30. (withdrawn) A apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said heat transfer means comprises a bimetallic thermo-electric means for converting heat into electrical energy.